

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 380

Introduced by Assembly Member Steinberg
(Coauthor: Senator Chesbro)

February 14, 2003

An act to add Section 5855.7 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 380, as introduced, Steinberg. Children's system of care program: evaluation standards.

The Children's Mental Health Services Act establishes the children's system of care program, which is an interagency system of care for children with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances that provides comprehensive, coordinated care. Counties may elect to participate in providing services under this act, pursuant to a performance contract entered between each participating county and the state, in exchange for funding from the state.

This bill would establish statutory outcome measures for the children's system of care program by requiring each county that enters a performance contract to provide services pursuant to the children's system of care program to collect and maintain locally, and to provide to the department annually, data that demonstrates the outcomes of the children's system of care program in that county based on outcomes achieved for individual enrollees, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Existing law establishes an interagency system of care for children with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances that provides comprehensive, coordinated care. Counties may elect to participate in providing services under this law, pursuant to a performance contract entered between each participating county and the state, in exchange for funding.

(2) Existing law provides that a specific problem to be addressed in connection with the provision of these services is that the mental health system lacks accountability and methods to measure progress toward client outcome goals and cost effectiveness.

(3) In 2000, the Legislature passed a law requiring the State Department of Mental Health to negotiate with each participating county to establish appropriate evaluation measures for the county's children's system of care program. This law requires the department, on an annual basis, to negotiate a performance contract with each county electing to continue its children's system of care program. The law requires that the performance contract be consistent from county to county, and that it include a scope of work plan and a budget that has sufficient detail to meet the requirements of the department.

(4) Existing law sustained the department's authority to redistribute children's system of care funds when a participating county fails to comply with program and audit requirements.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to standardize county level reporting of outcomes, require consistent statewide evaluation standards, require more comprehensive information regarding enrollee history and status, and require the department to focus on accountability and individual child outcomes for the children's system of care program.

SEC. 2. Section 5855.7 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5855.7. (a) Each county that enters a performance contract to provide services pursuant to the children's system of care program shall collect and maintain locally, and provide to the department, data that demonstrates the outcomes of the children's system of

1 care program in that county based on outcomes achieved for
2 individual enrollees.

3 (b) The data required of each county shall be established by the
4 department and shall include, but not be limited to, all of the
5 following:

6 (1) The number of persons served and, of those, the number
7 who receive extensive community mental health services.

8 (2) Cost savings, cost avoidance, and cost-effectiveness
9 outcomes that measure short-term or long-term cost savings and
10 cost avoidance achieved in public sector expenditures to the target
11 population for out-of-home placement, hospitalization, and
12 detention.

13 (3) Improvements in school attendance.

14 (4) The number of persons served who had contacts with local
15 law enforcement, the reduction in the number of juvenile
16 violations, and the reduction in the number of state and local
17 placements in juvenile halls or the California Youth Authority.

18 (5) Client benefit outcomes.

19 (6) The youth's and the family's perspectives on the system
20 interventions.

21 (7) The youth's and family member's satisfaction.

22 (8) System of care access.

23 (9) Mental health treatment and service costs, excluding
24 hospitalization, provided by each county mental health
25 department and its contractors to each youth and his or her family.

26 (10) The cost of psychiatric hospitalizations and out-of-home
27 placements.

28 (c) Data may be based on records maintained by county
29 departments of social services, probation, or mental health, school
30 districts, the youth's caseworker, or the youth's parent or
31 caregiver.

32 (d) Counties receiving General Fund moneys for the children's
33 system of care program shall provide the data to the department
34 annually, commencing July 1, 2004, for the 2003–04 fiscal year.

